

APRIL 2007

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CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY PURCHASE AND PLANT A TREE



THE CITY IS HOLDING A TREE SALE. COST is \$50 each. Trees will be distributed on **Saturday, May 5, 9 - 11 a.m.** To purchase up to five trees, call 952-563-8751 or download a form from the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Tree sale.

TOGETHER WE STAND



WHAT DO ALL PARENTS DESIRE FOR THEIR KIDS?

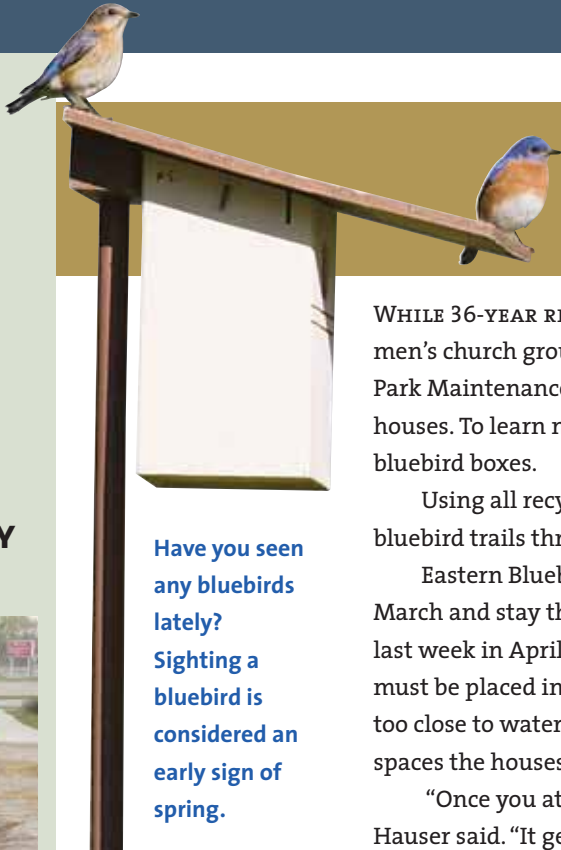
Health, happiness, opportunity.

Parents can support each other by not providing alcohol to minors. Obey the law and encourage other parents to do the same.

UNDERAGE DRINKING INCREASES during prom, graduation parties and summer celebrations. Parents, community leaders and other supportive adults play an important role in reducing underage drinking.

- The strongest predictor of kids not using alcohol, marijuana and other drugs is the belief that their parents will be upset if they do.
- New research shows heavy drinking in the teen years can cause long-lasting harm to thinking abilities.
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcohol.
- It is illegal to provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

For information, call Bloomington Public Health at 952-563-8900 or visit www.tricitypartners.org.



**Have you seen
any bluebirds
lately?
Sighting a
bluebird is
considered an
early sign of
spring.**

THE HOUSES THAT JACK BUILDS ATTRACTING THE BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS

WHILE 36-YEAR RESIDENT JACK HAUSER WAS VOLUNTEERING TO CLEAN UP NORMANDALE LAKE WITH HIS men's church group in 1994, he wondered what else they could do to enhance the park. Bloomington Park Maintenance Supervisor Ed O'Brien suggested putting up a bluebird trail – a series of bluebird houses. To learn more, Hauser quickly joined a Bluebird Recovery Program and set a goal to build 1,000 bluebird boxes.

Using all recycled materials, Hauser has built more than 500 bluebird boxes. You can spot Hauser's bluebird trails throughout Bloomington's parks, golf courses, schools and at Bloomington Civic Plaza.

Eastern Bluebirds arrive in Minnesota at the end of March and stay through October. They begin nesting the last week in April. In order to attract bluebirds, the houses must be placed in an open field, away from brush and not too close to water. Because bluebirds are territorial, Hauser spaces the houses every 200 yards.

"Once you attract the bluebirds, they'll come back," Hauser said. "It gets better each year."



Above photo by Wendell Long.

NORMANDALE LAKE AREA STUDY BALANCING DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE



WITH CONVENIENT ACCESS TO I-494, CLOSE proximity to the airport, and other amenities such as Normandale Lake and Hyland Parks, the area around 84th Street and Normandale Boulevard is not only a perfect residential setting, but also one of the prime office locations in the Twin Cities.

Today, the concentration of offices in the Normandale Lake area is second only to that in downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. About 8,000 people work in the two million square feet of office space south of I-494 and east of Bush Lake Road. Over the next 20 years, an additional 1.5 million square feet of office space could be constructed on vacant and redeveloped parcels in the area.

Currently underway, the Normandale Lake Area Study will make recommendations for completing development. The study's recommendations will include proposed street and traffic improvements, managing impacts on adjacent residential areas and parks, and incorporating sustainable development features such as transit, bike trails, paths and other urban design elements.

The City's objective is to complete commercial development and address transportation infrastructure while

responding to residents' concerns about neighborhood traffic and improving the experience for people using the parks.

"The wisdom in Bloomington's plans from the 1960s was to concentrate commercial development in nodes along I-494," Community Development Director Larry Lee said. "Today that strategy creates an excellent starting point for planning private development and a public realm that will be equally attractive as a work place, recreation area and neighborhood."

Study recommendations will describe street, transit, bikeways and trails, and surface water quality improvements. Equally important, the study will determine how to finance public improvements as the area

continues to develop and redevelop over the next 20 years.

During the last year, a number of neighborhood meetings and open houses were held to solicit comments from residents, developers and commercial landowners. Additional meetings will be scheduled as the study approaches final recommendations in June.

"We are looking to accommodate an attractive, sustainable development along with protecting the area's rich, natural environment," City Planner Julie Farnham said. "The vision is for a place where beautiful regional parks, a premiere employment center and a high level of access come together."

For information, call Planning and Economic Development at 952-563-8920.

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THE FUTURE OF OUR PARKS

LET’S HEAR ABOUT YOUR RECREATION NEEDS

By Mayor Gene Winstead

BLOOMINGTON’S ALMOST 9,000 ACRES OF parks and open space are highly valued by residents. During a recent community outreach process, part of the City’s strategic planning initiative Imagine Bloomington 2025, residents listed maintaining parks and providing stewardship of natural areas as priorities.

Over the next several months, the City will prepare a master plan to guide citywide park and recreation improvements and operations. The City is currently gathering input on park and recreation needs, including how residents want to use Bloomington parks today and over the next 20 years.

We’d like input on how we can continually provide facilities for the more than 5,000 youth who participate in BAA and the 9,700 youth and adults who participate in the City’s Parks and Recreation programs. Are you an active senior today, or will you be one in the future? Feedback will help us determine your needs, as well as the desires of walkers, bikers and those who simply enjoy a peaceful visit to one of Bloomington’s natural areas.

In March, the City held a community open house and a series of focus group meetings with recreation associations, youth, seniors, families, other recreation providers, and natural resource and conservation groups. A citizen task force appointed by the City Council will prioritize those needs and develop an action plan for the future. A draft Park Master Plan will be reviewed at a community open house early this summer with the final plan scheduled for completion by September.

There is still time to participate in the initial needs assessment. Make your opinion and ideas known by taking the Bloomington Parks Survey, available during the month of April. To participate, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Parks survey, or pick up a survey at Parks and Recreation, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

For more information, call Randy Quale at 952-563-8877, e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us or visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Park Master Plan.

AIRPORT NOISE UPDATE

CITY MONITORING NOISE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF NOISE ON Bloomington properties, the City is continuing to monitor the operations of the north-south runway that opened in fall 2005. According to Community Development Director Larry Lee, aircraft compliance with operational procedures that minimize flights over Bloomington has been very good.

“The Federal Aviation Administration has tested procedures to increase compliance with the turn-point procedure and minimize noise impacts in Bloomington,” Lee said.

Two lawsuits, one initiated by the cities of Eagan, Minneapolis and Richfield, and the other initiated by residents whose properties are most affected by airport noise, are currently in progress. The City will continue to monitor legal actions that would require the Metropolitan Airports Commission to insulate homes in the 60-64dB contours. In turn, the City will advocate for Bloomington residents to receive the same levels of additional mitigation as residents in other cities whose properties are similarly situated near the airport.

To date, all Bloomington properties in the 65db or greater contours whose homeowners agreed to insulation have been insulated. All homes and apartments identified for acquisitions as part of the new runway’s noise mitigation have been acquired.

For more information, call Carolyn Lane at 952-563-8948.



NEW DIRECTOR ON BOARD

KIRBY TO LEAD COMMUNITY SERVICES



A NEW year brought new leadership to the City of Bloomington. Diann Kirby was promoted to Community Services Director in January.

Over the last 10 years, Kirby served as the City’s Communications Administrator. Managing the City’s newsletters, video production, Web sites and cable franchise administration, she led the Communications Division to more than 30 local, state and national awards.

Kirby, who now heads the Communications, Human Services, Parks and Recreation and Public Health divisions, along with the City’s recreational facilities, said she is looking forward to her new role.

“Change is always an opportunity to take a fresh look at what we’re doing right, what we could do differently and start creating some new possibilities,” she said.

Kirby graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she majored in communications and English. After college, she began a career in broadcast journalism with an NBC affiliate in Waterloo-Cedar Rapids. Covering beats ranging from health care to the Iowa legislature, Kirby received several awards, including the Iowa Health Care Media Award in 1989.

In 1990, Kirby began as a producer and reporter for the City’s government access channel. She hosted two weekly news magazine programs and a monthly call-in show. In 1993, Kirby was promoted to Health Promotion and Communications Specialist in Public Health.

Kirby earned a master’s degree in business communication at the University of St. Thomas in 2002. She is currently serving as president of the Bloomington Noon Rotary Club.

Kirby replaced Community Services Director James Truax, who retired in January after more than 36 years of service with the City.

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The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us. Web site: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



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Councilmember District IV
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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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Charles Honchell, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.

NEWS FOR THE HOMEOWNER

UNDERSTANDING PROPERTY VALUES AND TAXES
MARKET VALUE NOTICES AND TAX STATEMENTS MAILED

CITY RESIDENTS RECEIVED TWO SEPARATE notices in March regarding property values and property taxes. The following is a summary of the 2007 *Market Valuation Notices* and the 2007 *Hennepin County Property Tax Statements*. For more information, call the City Assessor’s Office at 952-563-8724, or visit the City Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Property taxes.



2007 Market Valuation Notices

This year’s assessment, as of January 2, 2007, reflects the softening of the residential market that occurred in 2006. On a monthly basis throughout the year, City Assessing staff analyzes property sales and uses that data to determine market value. Bloomington’s average 2007 residential increase was less than 1 percent, the lowest overall increase to residential properties in many years. The 2007 estimated market value will be used to calculate property taxes payable in 2008.

On **Wednesday, April 11, 7 p.m.**, in the **Council Chambers, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road**, the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will hear testimony from property owners who believe their 2007 estimated market value is incorrect. The Local Board of Appeal is made up of City Council-appointed Bloomington residents who have a background in real estate. Applicants should provide market evidence to the board explaining their position. Residents are encouraged to call the City Assessor’s Office at any time to discuss their market value.

2007 Hennepin County Property Tax Statements

The 2007 tax calculation is based on the January 2, 2006, market value, which considers the market activity that occurred in 2005. The appeal for the values on which 2007 taxes are based was held in April 2006.

PROTECTING CITIZENS
TIME-OF-SALE INSPECTIONS

ALL SINGLE- AND TWO-FAMILY dwellings, condominiums, townhouses and mobile homes are required to have an inspection prior to being listing for sale. The inspecting report must be available for review during the time the home is offered for sale. The Time-of-Sale Program provides potential purchasers with information about the condition and code compliance of a dwelling and requires the correction of immediate hazards.

The evaluator will examine the dwelling’s visible structural elements such as heating, electrical and plumbing systems, and other construction components. Accessible, unoccupied areas such as attics and crawl spaces will also be viewed. No building components will be taken apart during inspection.

Beginning May 1, the City is reinstating the practice of allowing residents to choose to have the inspection performed by either a City inspector for \$180 or to choose from the list of licensed evaluators.

For information, visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Time of Sale, or call 952-563-8930.

OUTSTANDING LEADER
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
CHARLES HONCHELL RETIRES



AFTER 19 years of service with the City, Public Works Director Charles Honchell

will retire at the end of April. Bloomington became a leader in innovation among cities on Honchell’s watch. He established a storm water utility to supply needed funding for extensive storm water, sewer and ponding systems upgrades. He also developed and implemented the Pavement Management Program, a computerized system that prolongs pavement life and reduces overall costs to property owners. Honchell was key to successful transportation improvements including TH169, I-494 and I-35W upgrades, and the development of light rail transit and American Boulevard. Under his direction, all of the infrastructure was developed and in place for the Mall of America’s opening in 1992. He was instrumental in setting the stage for current and future infrastructure needs of Bloomington’s growing Airport South District.

Honchell headed the construction of improved facilities that consolidated staff and allowed all Public Works equipment to be housed indoors, enabling the City to provide more efficient and timely service, especially snow removal, and protect its capital investments. Under his leadership, the Water Treatment Plant doubled its groundwater treatment capacity to continue to meet the community’s water needs.

Highly regarded as an infrastructure expert, Honchell represented the city, state and region on many committees including Met Council’s Transportation Advisory Commission. He served as President of the City Engineers Association of Minnesota and the Minnesota Chapter of American Public Works Association. Honchell was named one of the Top 10 Public Works Officers in the country.

Honchell earned a civil engineering degree at Michigan’s Lawrence Technological University. In 1968, he received the nation’s first master’s degree in public works from the University of Pittsburgh. He spent 10 years with the city of Pontiac, Michigan and was Public Works Director for the city of Roseville, Minnesota.

As Bloomington Public Works Director, Honchell was able to develop plans to meet the future needs of the community and realize the results.

“Public Works services touch the lives of people dozens or even hundreds of times a day,” Honchell said. “One of the reasons I chose this career was to try to give something

LOCAL RAMBLERS OUTPERFORM THE MARKET
RESIDENTS CHOOSE TO MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE THEIR HOMES

RAMBLERS HAVE BEEN GOOD INVESTMENTS for Bloomington homeowners. Quality construction and attractive neighborhoods, where saplings planted 50 years ago are now mature trees, helped these midcentury houses maintain their value. In addition, their size makes them affordable as starter homes and attractive to seniors searching for a one-level, accessible floor plan.

The best indicator of ramblers’ market value is what people are willing to pay for them. The average price of ramblers has increased faster than for other types of homes built in Bloomington during the same period. Between 1990 and 2006, the value of Bloomington ramblers rose more than

170 percent. The value of all other house styles rose 149 percent.

People value their ramblers, in part, because of the quality of materials used in construction. Douglas fir framing, cedar siding, oak floors and copper plumbing are durable and attractive materials for new owners. Relatively small rambler designs are also inherently energy efficient, although most homes have benefitted from energy upgrades including attic insulation, efficient furnaces and new windows.

According to data from the last census, residents move into their Bloomington houses and stay put for a long time. As a result, residents have a strong desire to maintain and upgrade their homes and neighborhoods. Berne Thury, a 36-year resident, said that with its conservative structure, her 1957 rambler is very adaptable.

“You can keep these homes up-to-date and still not change their integrity,” Thury said. “I did not want this house to stop being a rambler. For me, it still had to fit in the neighborhood.”

Resident concerns regarding residential subdivisions and the compatibility of large houses with

Thury feels that the rambler is adaptable. She has made several improvements to her home, including enclosing the area between the garage and the house to create a beautiful and useful space.



“You have to express yourself,” said Thury, who created and installed her own pottery tiles for the original fireplace.

surrounding neighborhoods was the impetus for an ordinance recently adopted by the City Council. The ordinance is designed to better integrate new homes and additions in existing residential neighborhoods by establishing new single-family house height limits, prevailing lot widths and tree preservation requirements for residential subdivisions.

“Paying attention to the scale of new construction helps ensure the rambler will never feel out of place,” Bloomington’s Community Development Director Larry Lee said. “Some cities have suggested that their 1950s-era housing is obsolete and should be redeveloped. Bloomington is taking a different approach by communicating the inherent value and possibilities of ramblers to the 12,000 people who own one.”



GET READY TO CLEAN!

- Set materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your curbside pickup day.
- Trucks will go through only once on your scheduled day. If you miss the curbside pickup, call your trash hauler who will pick up your refuse for a fee.
- Seniors or residents who are disabled: Unable to handle the materials? Contact your Neighborhood Watch block captains – or call the Human Services Information Line in advance for volunteer availability, 952-563-8737 V/TTY.

QUESTIONS?
CALL 952-563-8750.

SCHEDULE

Your regular trash day is:	Your location is:	Curbside pickup is Saturday:	Sell usable items during the Citywide Garage Sales. See Page 5.
Friday	West of Normandale	April 14	
Thursday	Normandale to France	April 21	
Wednesday	France to Penn	April 28	
Tuesday	Penn to Portland	May 5	
Monday	East of Portland	May 19	

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it’s saving energy or guarding Bloomington’s precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



EARTH ACTION HERO
THE LAKE GUARDIAN

IN 2004, BUSH LAKE BEACH WAS CLOSED FOR TWO WEEKS BECAUSE OF HIGH E. COLI bacteria counts in the water. Enterprising staff from the City set out to find cost-effective ways to prevent high bacteria counts and keep the beach open. Assuming that bacteria were washing out of the beach sand and into the water, staff devised a method of treating the sand with a diluted chlorine bleach mixture. In 2006, additional strategies to deter gulls and geese – the biggest contributors to bacteria in the sand – included installing Mylar lines that discourage the birds from “hanging out” at the beach.

For the past two summers, Gordon Bratsch, who has lived across the bay from the beach for 40 years, has been observing and documenting bird behaviors round the clock.

“Gordon is a steward of Bush Lake,” said City Environmental Health Coordinator Jeff Luedeman. “His volunteer efforts have been key in helping us successfully improve the water quality at the beach.”

Bratsch observes where the birds are on the beach at different times of the day. This helps the City devise methods that will encourage gulls and geese to move on to other locations.

“If E. coli levels in the water get too high, the beach is closed, which might give the impression that this is a dirty lake,” Bratsch said. “It’s not. It’s one of the cleanest lakes in the metropolitan area. I want people to say, ‘What a beautiful, clean lake you’ve got.’”

Bratsch said he volunteers to care for the lake’s water quality because Bush Lake is a treasure, not only for residents, but for anyone who wants to see it.



“You’ll not find a unique lake like this in the metro area. It’s very important to take care of it,” Bratsch said. “I don’t own the lake, I just live by it. Whatever is good for the lake, I like; and I’m grateful for the staff who take care of it.”

Bloomington beachgoers appreciate the clean sand and water.

BIKE, WALK, CARPOOL OR RIDE THE BUS OR LRT
POSITIVELY IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT

HELP REDUCE MOTORIZED TRAFFIC IN YOUR AREA AND REAP the benefits of using alternatives to driving alone to work. Get started with these two programs offered by 494 Commuter Services. To participate or for information, call 612-848-4947 or visit www.494corridor.org.



TAKE THE COMMUTER CHALLENGE

The Commuter Challenge encourages individuals to commute to work by using alternatives to driving alone during April, May or June. Whether you take the bus or light rail, carpool or ride a bicycle or walk to your job, pledge to try one commuting alternative and you will be entered in a drawing to win great prizes.



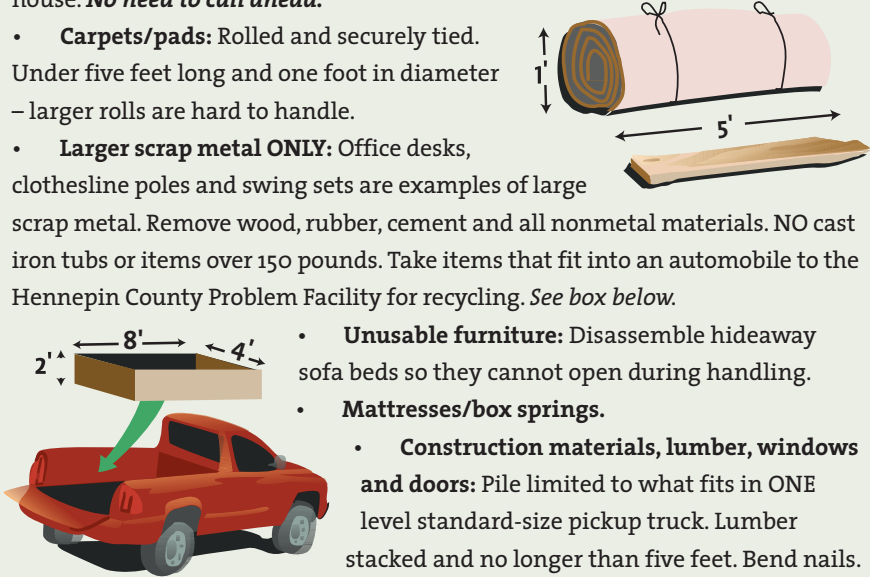
BIKE2BENEFITS

Bike2Benefits is a new program that encourages people to commit to biking or walking to transit or work eight or more times throughout the year. Participants will receive a free copy of the Twin Cities Bike Map (a \$10 retail value) and a set of bicycle commuting tips (a \$15 retail value), along with personalized bike-route planning assistance. Participants who complete the program will receive a T-shirt and a certificate of recognition.

ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

Please be considerate; haulers can not spend more than five minutes at each house in order to complete the routes.

- **General junk:** Boxed, bagged or bundled – under 100 pounds per item.
- **Appliances:** Water heaters, microwaves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, etc. Limit TWO appliances per house. **No need to call ahead.**
- **Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied. Under five feet long and one foot in diameter – larger rolls are hard to handle.
- **Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Office desks, clothesline poles and swing sets are examples of large scrap metal. Remove wood, rubber, cement and all nonmetal materials. NO cast iron tubs or items over 150 pounds. Take items that fit into an automobile to the Hennepin County Problem Facility for recycling. See box below.



- **Unusable furniture:** Disassemble hideaway sofa beds so they cannot open during handling.
- **Mattresses/box springs.**
- **Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails. NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.
- **BUNDLED brush:** Branches smaller than four inches in diameter and five feet in length. Includes buckthorn.

PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING AND PROTECT AIR QUALITY

Window air conditioners and dehumidifiers set out at the curb are targets for people who take copper wire from appliances to sell. It is illegal to cut the copper wire in appliances because it releases toxic pollutants, such as Freon, into the air. To help prevent illegal dumping and protect air quality, do not set out smaller appliances that contain Freon until 7 a.m. on the day of your pickup. For more information, call 952-563-8751.

OPTIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB
HENNEPIN COUNTY PROBLEM WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITY

1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-3777

TU, TH, F 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
W 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
SA 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- **Hazardous waste:** Paints, motor oil, solvents and other household chemicals.
- **Tires and batteries.**
- **Electronic goods:** TVs, computers, monitors, stereos and cordless phones.
- **Recyclable materials:** Plastic and glass bottles, cans and all paper.
- **Gas-powered, refrigeration appliances:** Camper/other fridges, air conditioners – call ahead, 612-348-5832.
- **Small scrap metal** that fits into a car trunk.
- **Nonrefillable propane or butanic cylinders.**



BURNSVILLE LANDFILL
952-890-3248

- Concrete, bricks.
- Porcelain: Tubs, sinks, toilets.
- Shingles.

NSP COMPOSTING
Burnsville, 952-736-1915

- Leaves, grass clippings, sod.
- Stumps, logs.



BLOOMINGTON FARMER'S MARKET DEBUTS

LOCATED AT CIVIC PLAZA

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BUY PRODUCTS from local farmers, growers and producers. The City of Bloomington Farmer's Market will be held on **Saturdays, July 7 to October 6, 7 a.m. - noon**, in the east parking lot of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or e-mail farmersmarket@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

DISABILITY AWARENESS EMPLOYMENT MONTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

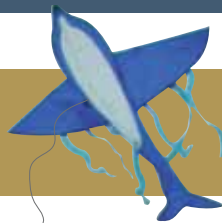


THE DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT Awareness Month Committee is looking for new members to assist in planning for the October 2007 Disability Employment Awareness Month Activities. The committee focuses on raising awareness of the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities; and providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to learn valuable job searching skills and to receive important information for securing employment. If you are interested in becoming a committee member or for more information, call Melissa Wurst-Persaud at 952-563-4950.

HIGH SCHOOL JOB FAIR A VALUABLE YOUTH RESOURCE

MEET EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE YOUTH, ages 15 - 18, and receive applications on the spot at the High School Job Fair, **Saturday, April 14, noon - 3 p.m.**, at the Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. High school students will have the opportunity to attend valuable seminars on interviewing, the hiring process and more. The event is sponsored by the Bloomington United for Youth, City of Bloomington, Bloomington High Schools and Northwestern Health Sciences University.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



KITE DAY 2007

CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S DAY IN JAPAN

IN HONOR OF CHILDREN'S DAY, A JAPANESE NATIONAL holiday that celebrates the health and happiness of all children, Bloomington Sister City Organization and the City of Bloomington are cosponsoring Kite Day 2007. Bring your own kite or receive one on site. This free, family event, featuring entertainment and refreshments, will be held at Valley View Playfields, 90th Street and Portland Avenue, **Saturday, May 5, 1 - 4 p.m.** For more information, call 952-563-8713.

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

ATTEND THE SALES OR HOLD YOUR OWN

THERE ARE THREE GREAT WAYS TO CLEAN up this spring. Set items out for the Curbside Cleanup, *see page 4*; donate usable items to charitable organizations; or sell your unwanted treasures at the Citywide Garage Sales, sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation (formerly sponsored by Human Services), **Thursday - Saturday, May 31 - June 2**. Registration is \$20 (\$15 without a yard sign) and includes a yard sign, advertising and individual listing in the official registry of sale addresses. For more information, call Jim Meyers at 952-831-3798. Registration forms are available at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S., Edward Jones Valley West Office, 3920 W. Old Shakopee Road, Richfield-Bloomington Credit Unions, 345 E. 77th St., Richfield or 4025 W. Old Shakopee Road. Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 16. Download forms at the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Garage sale.

Purchase garage sale lists for \$2 beginning May 30 at Edward Jones Valley West Office, 3920 W. Old Shakopee Road. Lists will also be available on the the City's Web site.



BLOOMINGTON YOUTH SERVICE DAYS SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



HEY KIDS! GET INVOLVED IN YOUR community and take part in one of several youth service opportunities coordinated by Human Services throughout April. Projects may include tree and shrub plantings, park and street cleanups or helping senior citizens. Youth and youth groups that volunteer for City-sponsored programs will be invited to attend the **Mayor's Volunteer Breakfast Buffet on April 14**, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. For more information, call Kerry Stone at 952-563-8737, TTY 952-563-8740 or e-mail kstone@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

CARNIVAL EVENT HONORS CHILDREN BLOOMINGTON LOVES ITS KIDS

SINCE 1994, CEDAR VALLEY CHURCH HAS sponsored a banquet honoring children in cooperation with the Bloomington Loves Its Kids monthlong celebration in February. This year, more than 400 children enjoyed puppets, carnival games, large inflatables, dinner ordered from kid-friendly menus and a character-building entertainment program. The Bloomington Police Explorers were also on hand, along with McGruff, The Crime Dog.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER, 9801 Penn Ave. S., houses the Human Services' Senior Program. For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-4957.

CINCO DE MAYO MEAL

May is Older Americans Month. To kick off the monthlong celebration, Creekside will hold a special Cinco de Mayo meal on **Friday, May 4**. Seating begins at 11:30 a.m.; serving begins at 11:45 a.m. Reservations are required. Call 952-563-4948, April 25 - May 2, before noon. Meal cost is \$5; \$3.25/age 60 and older. In honor of Diversity Day on May 4, diners are encouraged to wear or bring something unique to celebrate their diverse backgrounds.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



The Creekside Needleworkers meet **Thursday mornings** to create blankets, mittens, hats and other clothing items. Last year, the group donated more than 2,000 items to community organizations such as the Veterans Hospital, Children's Hospital, Project Linus and the Cancer Society. To learn more about the Creekside Needleworkers, stop by Creekside.

SPRING WALKING CLUB

The Spring Walking Club will meet **Tuesday mornings in May** at Creekside and travel to scenic Twin Cities parks and paths. The group will board the bus at 8:30 a.m. and return at 11:30 a.m. (12:30 p.m. return on May 29 following a picnic lunch). Cost is \$45. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

FUN WALK TO BE HELD NATIONAL SENIOR HEALTH AND FITNESS DAY



CELEBRATE NATIONAL SENIOR HEALTH and Fitness Day with a leisurely walk in a beautiful setting, **Wednesday, May 30, 9 a.m.**, at Normandale Lake, 84th and Chalet Road. Refreshments and entertainment by the Classic Country Music Jam will be provided at the bandshell. To register, call 952-563-8877 or e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

SUMMER SPECTRUM
AN ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES

BEGINNING **MONDAY, JUNE 11** AND spanning nine weeks, Summer Spectrum classes focus on youth entering grades K through 9. Classes

and camps will be held at Oak Grove Elementary, 1300 W. 104th St., with limited bus transportation available. The catalog, mailed to the parents of school-age children in Bloomington public schools, is also on our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Spectrum. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

Summer Spectrum is a collaborative program of Bloomington Public Schools’ Community Education, the City of Bloomington’s Parks and Recreation Division, and the Bloomington Art Center.

New this year! Registration for programs is available online. Visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Program registration.

CITY ORDINANCE
TOBACCO USE PROHIBITED
WITHIN CITY-OWNED PARKS

TOBACCO USE IS PROHIBITED WITHIN ALL City-owned parks, open spaces, conservation and recreation areas. The City Council passed the ordinance last October that prohibits tobacco use within playgrounds, playlots, athletic fields, all spectator areas, outdoor areas around Bloomington Ice Garden, golf courses, picnic areas, tennis courts and all other park facilities and property. People may smoke in their personal vehicles in parking lots.

The ordinance expands an ordinance implemented in 2001 that restricts tobacco use within selected City-owned park areas including the beach, pool, play areas and spectator areas during organized youth athletic events.

During the past five years, 88 Minnesota cities and four counties have passed policies and ordinances restricting tobacco use within parks and recreational areas. Nearby cities such as Edina and Golden Valley have policies similar to Bloomington’s ordinance prohibiting tobacco use in parks and on golf courses.

In a 2005 University of Minnesota study about public support for tobacco-free parks, 70 percent of those surveyed supported tobacco-free policies for outdoor park and recreation areas.

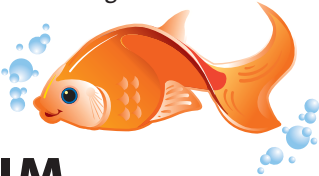
For more information, call Public Health Administrator Karen Zeleznak at 952-563-8905.

YOUTH FUN IN THE SUN
SIGN UP TO GET MOVING AND SMILE!



SUMMER ACTIVITIES
REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS

- SATURDAY, JUNE 9**
Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach open.
- MONDAY, JUNE 11**
Summer Spectrum classes, Summer Playground program and Arts in the Parks series begin.
- MONDAY, JULY 23**
Camp Kota begins.



SPLISH, SPLASH AND SWIM

BLOOMINGTON FAMILY
AQUATIC CENTER

301 E. 90th Street
BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER FEATURES A zero-depth entry pool, interactive play features, water slides, diving boards, sand volleyball, bathhouse and concession stand.



When:	June 9 - August 19.		
Time:	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.		
Cost:	<i>Age</i>	<i>Daily admission</i>	<i>After 5 p.m.</i>
	Under 1 year	Free	Free
	1 - 5 years	\$5	\$4
	6 - 54 years	\$7	\$5
	55+ years	\$5	\$4

Season passes	<i>Age</i>	<i>Resident</i>	<i>Non-resident</i>
Child	Under 10 years	\$12	\$32
Young adult	11 - 15 years	\$22	\$42
Adult	16 - 54 years	\$42	\$62
Senior	55+ years	\$12	\$32

Season passes are now available for purchase at the Parks and Recreation counter in Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Purchase passes at the Aquatic Center June 4 - 8, 1 - 6 p.m. or during regular hours beginning June 9.



GOT A GROUP?
WE TAKE RESERVATIONS

Group reservation for birthday parties and private lessons are available. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

WATER TOTS - OPEN SWIM TIME

Open swim time in the zero-depth entry area is available for children, ages 5 and younger, with an adult chaperone, 18 years or older. The program runs June 25 - August 17, from 8 - 10 a.m. Admission is \$3.50 per child; chaperones are free.

BUSH LAKE BEACH

9140 E. Bush Lake Road
IS THERE ANYTHING BETTER ON A HOT summer day than playing at the beach? A daily pass or seasonal parking permit is required for entrance to Bush Lake.

When: June 9 - August 19.
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Parking permits for Bush Lake Beach are now available for purchase. Cost for parking at Bush Lake is \$5 daily or \$27 annually (June through August). For more information, call Parks and Recreation.



SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons are offered at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Bush Lake. For registration forms, call Parks and Recreation.



ADAPTIVE RECREATION AND LEARNING Exchange Cooperative (AR&LE) offers opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in recreation, leisure and community education programs in Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield.

ADAPTIVE YOUTH
SOFTBALL

THIS PROGRAM TEACHES BASIC RULES and good sportsmanship in a non-threatening environment. Siblings and parents are invited to volunteer.

Who: Boys and girls with disabilities, ages 10 - 18.

When: Mondays, June 11 - July 30, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Haeg Park, 8301 Penn Ave. S.

Cost: \$45 resident; \$50 nonresident. Includes team shirt and photo.

Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

ADAPTIVE ADULT
CO-REC SOFTBALL



COMPETITIVE LEAGUE

COMPETITIVE SOFTBALL IS FOR ADULTS with disabilities who want to play in a competitive league with a strong focus on playing to win. Experience is not required, but recommended.

Who: Adults, 19 and older.

When: Tuesdays, June 12 - July 31, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Haeg Park, 8301 Penn Ave. S.

Cost: \$45 resident; \$50 nonresident. Includes team shirt and photo.

Register: Call Parks and Recreation.

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL IS FOR adults with disabilities who want to meet new friends and play softball.

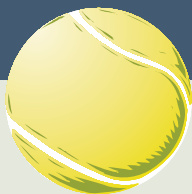
Who: Adults, 19 and older.

When: Tuesdays, June 12 - July 31, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Haeg Park, 8301 Penn Ave. S.

Cost: \$45 resident; \$50 nonresident. Includes team shirt and photo.

Register: Call Parks and Recreation.



GO FOR A WALK AND LIVE IT UP

NEW FITNESS PROGRAM OFFERED

LOOKING FOR A NEW WAY TO GET AND stay fit? Public Health and Parks and Recreation, with support from Prevention Minnesota, are introducing a new fitness program.

Studies have shown that walking with others can be more motivating than walking alone. The new program, On the Move Bloomington and Richfield, promotes the benefits of group fitness.

According to Parks and Recreation’s Randi Wallenberg, the new program will be a better alternative to the ShapeUp Challenge, which will no longer be offered. On the Move does not focus on competition, but allows individuals to help each other start a habit that can enhance the quality of their lives.

To participate, individuals form groups of 2 - 10 friends, family members

or coworkers and exercise together at least once a week. Groups must have at least two adults.

“The goal is to encourage each other to exercise most days of the week,” Public Health Specialist Joan Bulfer said. “Walking is one of the easiest exercises to fit in, but groups may also choose to bicycle, run, dance, swim or engage in other physical activities.”

During the six-month program, participants will receive incentives, including a neck wallet (for carrying keys or money), newsletters, motivational tips and a chance to participate in monthly drawings. Sign up with Parks and Recreation May 7 - 18 and begin walking by the end of May. The fee is \$5 per person. To register, call 952-563-8877.



WALKING:

- Is easy and fun.
 - Gives you more energy.
 - Makes you feel good.
 - Helps reduce stress.
 - Is great for the heart.
 - Helps you sleep better.
 - Tones your muscles.
 - Helps control your appetite.
 - Burns off extra calories.
- Check out Creekside’s walking programs. *See page 5.*

TENNIS

LESSONS

INDOOR TENNIS LESSONS FOR BEGINNER and intermediate players will be offered in collaboration with 98th Street Northwest Athletic Club.

When: Thursdays, May 10 - June 14; July 12 - August 16.
Times: *Beginners* 7 - 8 p.m.
Intermed. 8 - 9 p.m.
Where: 98th Street Northwest Athletic Club

To register or for more information, call Parks and Recreation.

LEAGUES

MEN’S, WOMEN’S, SENIORS’ AND CO-ED leagues are available. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

VOLLEYBALL

SUMMER SAND WOMEN’S AND CO-REC LEAGUES

A GREAT WAY TO SPEND THE BEAUTIFUL summer evenings – exercise, competition and socializing – this program has it all.

When: Evenings, June 4 - August 16.
Where: Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road.
Cost: \$260 per team.
Deadline: May 4.

DAYTIME

ENJOY VOLLEYBALL AT THE BLOOMINGTON National Guard Training Center, 3300 W. 98th St. Teams are formed each week.
When: Evenings, June 5 - August 17.
When: All year, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Beginners 9 - 11 a.m.
Intermed. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cost: \$1.50 per session.

PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FIELDS

A VARIETY OF BALL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS are planned for fall 2007. Enhancements will improve both safety and playability at Dred Scott and Valley View playfields, Kent Hrbek Youth fields and Smith Park. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.



FOR RENT

PARKS AND RECREATION MAKES summertime activities more convenient for you. Canoe racks and garden plots are available for rent. For more information, call 952-563-8877.

CANOE RACKS

When: May 1 - October 31.
Where: West Bush Lake.
Cost: \$60 + tax.

GARDEN PLOTS

When: May 1, 2007 - October 15.
Where: Park Avenue between 82nd and 83rd streets.
Cost: \$30 + tax.



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

BLOOMINGTON CIVIC THEATRE

Funny Girl, one of the greatest love stories of the American musical theater, will be performed **April 27 - May 20**. For tickets, call 952-563-8575 or visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org.

MEDALIST CONCERT BAND

Medalist Concert Band with conductor Jerry Luckhardt performs **Hands Across the Sea** on **Monday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 adults, \$8 students/seniors. For tickets, call 952-563-8575 or visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org.

NOTE-ABLE SINGERS

The NOTE-able Singers perform Broadway favorites and classic pop tunes on Thursday, **May 31, 7:30 p.m.** For more information, call Judy at 952-831-1662 or Dawn at 952-881-4072.

EXHIBITIONS

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER (BAC)

952-563-8587

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY



Bookend, Photograph by Thomas Allen.

April 6 - May 11. Artists’ reception is Friday, April 6, 6 - 8 p.m.

Annual Members’ Juried Exhibition runs **May 25 - June 29**. Artists’ reception is Friday, June 1, 6 - 8 p.m.

Open Mike Poetry Night is a literary event that will be held **Thursday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.** Cost is a \$3 donation.

Double Take, featuring artists Thomas Allen, Kyle Fokken and Adam Ritchie, runs

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

ATRIUM GALLERY, SECOND FLOOR

Intaglio! – An Educational Exhibition, featuring artist Todd Bridigum, runs through **May 6**.

Bloomington Public Elementary Schools Art Show runs **May 8 - 31**. Opening reception is Tuesday, May 8, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

CLASSROOM HALLWAY, SECOND FLOOR

Year of Cezanne trip exhibition, featuring works from an art education trip to France, runs through **May 4**.

SPRING ART SALE

Pottery, mosaics, artwork, jewelry and more will be for sale in the Schneider Theater Lobby **Thursday, April 26, 4 - 10 p.m., Friday, April 27, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., and Sunday, April 29, 1 - 4 p.m.**

BLACK BOX THEATER

For tickets or more information, call 952-563-8587 or visit www.bloomingtonartcenter.com.

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK

Gallery Theater Company presents this Neil Simon comedy **Thursday - Saturday, April 12 - 28, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 15 - 29, 2 p.m.** The April 28 performance is American Sign Language interpreted. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$12 seniors/students.



MONKEY MAGIC: CHINESE STORY THEATER

Nine Mile Creek Theater Company

presents this youth ensemble performance of a colorful collection of Chinese folk tales **Friday - Saturday, May 11 - 19, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 20, 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$8.

WORD ON THE STREET PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY OF ROADWAYS

DOES SPRING HAVE YOU THINKING about landscaping? Gardening and landscaping not only enhance the aesthetic value of properties, but also provide needed screening and privacy.

In planning your landscaping projects, keep in mind that the City prohibits placing landscaping materials and construction dumpsters in the street right-of-way. This ordinance maintains roadway safety, protects the environment and allows staff to perform maintenance activities such as sweeping and sealcoating.



Prevent runoff: Properly cover landscaping material and store it off the public street and boulevard.

To help protect and enhance the environment and safety of roadways:

- Make sure delivery companies drop off dumpsters and all materials directly onto your property. Use plywood or other pads to prevent driveway damage.
- Cover dirt and landscape material to prevent polluted runoff from leaving driveways and entering storm sewers.
- Report nuisance or ordinance violations at 952-563-4913.

IS A PERMIT OR ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT REQUIRED?

Projects that require work in the right-of-way may require a permit or encroachment agreement from the City. The right-of-way width varies, depending on each street, but generally includes 12 - 15 feet of land behind the curb or the pavement edge of the boulevard you maintain.

In general, public street rights-of way and clear-view triangles at corners should be kept free of plantings. Some projects require City authorization: new or modified driveway approaches, curbs and gutters, sidewalks and permanent structures such as retaining walls, flagpoles, fences and monuments. For more information, call Engineering at 952-563-4870.

RECYCLING STATS

THE SOUTH HENNEPIN RECYCLING and Problem Waste Drop-off Center, 1400 W. 96th St, recycled 200,000 gallons of paint, 35,000 gallons of used oil, 675 tons of consumer electronics and 1.2 million tons of recyclables in 2006.

RIGHT ON TARGET BLOOMINGTON FIRST IN SHOOTING COMPETITION

BLOOMINGTON POLICE OFFICER JARED Taylor, along with Pete Dahl, Taylor's former partner from the Rice County Sheriff's Office, took first place for Team Bloomington in an elite shooting competition.

Sixty-four officers from around the country competed at the 5.11 Challenge held in Montana. Officers competed in handgun, shotgun and rifle courses and were scored on speed and accuracy.

One of the prizes for first place included \$100,000 in equipment. Two hundred gear bags filled with uniforms, holsters, shooting eyewear and gloves were given to Bloomington's police officers. The event sponsors also donated gear bags to officers on the Gulf Coast who suffered from Hurricane Katrina.

According to Taylor, who has been with the BPD since August 2006, the program is held each year to give back to police officers.

"The 5.11 Challenge was one of the greatest experiences in my law enforcement career," he said. "The event showed an appreciation for police officers and what we do. It was also amazing to get to know other officers from around the country."

Note: In rock climbing, 5.11 is a measurement denoting a high degree of difficulty.



Bloomington Police Officer Jared Taylor, right, with Rice County Sheriff's Deputy Pete Dahl.

ONGOING PRAIRIE MAINTENANCE BURNING PRODUCES MORE FLOWERS AND SEEDS



"Why does the City burn areas around parks and ponds in the spring?" – A Bloomington resident

CONTROLLED BURNS ARE PART OF THE CITY'S PRAIRIE maintenance program. Plants grow taller and produce more flowers and seeds following a burn because prairies are fire-dependent ecosystems. Warmer soil favors prairie plants over cool-season invasive weeds. Fire also helps control unwanted trees and woody shrubs. For information, call Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AWARD – 1968



Photo credit: Irwin D. Norling

IN NOVEMBER 1963, PRIOR TO MANY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS THAT HAVE NOW BEEN implemented by local, state and federal governments, Councilmember John Malone requested that a natural resources commission be formed out of concern for Bloomington's natural environment. Headed by its first Chairperson Michael A. Bosanko, the commission was established in 1964.

Four years later, the National Wildlife Federation honored the commission with its National Conservation Organization Achievement Award, citing the commission's accomplishments in the inventory of the city's natural resources, pollution control in Nine Mile Creek and establishment of a 500-acre nature preserve. The leadership shown by these efforts has made Bloomington a more environmentally rich community today.

Bosanko, *right*, along with 1968 Commission Chairperson Roland V. Peterson, *left*, accepted the award from Texas Governor John B. Connally, *center*, at a ceremony in Houston.



ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PRESERVES NEIGHBORHOODS

BLOOMINGTON'S PROGRAMS TO HELP maintain and improve neighborhood appearance have been in place since 1994. The importance of safe and well-maintained neighborhoods was again confirmed by comments from a recent community outreach process, in which residents say they want an increased focus on property maintenance, including enforcement of city codes.

The City's goal is to increase compliance with City ordinances and reduce complaints about code violations by keeping residents informed of City requirements, offering home improvement loans and enforcing compliance with the codes when violations occur.

In addition to citywide inspections conducted by Environmental Health, the Community Enhancement Program promotes concentrated education and enforcement of zoning regulations, nuisance abatement and property maintenance to address violations proactively before they become citizen complaints. The result is a greater compliance rate after the initial correction order, as compared to compliance with orders issued after a complaint was filed.

In 2006, the third phase of the Community Enhancement Program addressed specific blocks instead of entire neighborhoods, allowing for more thorough inspections and focusing on locations where most complaints occur. Of the 305 properties inspected in 2006, 60 percent were given correction orders. Currently, 6 percent, or 19 of the 305 homes inspected in 2006, have unresolved code violations. Most of these homes were granted extensions to complete work due to cold weather or participation in the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Neighborhood Loan Program. The CEP program will continue in another area in 2007.

For more information, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES



In 2007, the City begins a commercial nuisance program to systematically inspect all commercial properties in Bloomington. The goal is to ensure property maintenance, maintain property values and reduce future complaints. For information, call 952-563-8934.